



December 2005

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### **The Green Team Achieves a Dream**

Groundwork Lawrence improves trail at Den Rock Park

Lawrence, MA (November 4, 2005) - The City of Lawrence celebrated completion of the first phase of trail improvements at Den Rock Park, an 80-acre natural area along the Shawsheen River. Mayor Michael Sullivan proudly cut the ribbon to 3.75 miles of restored trail, which now has 35 new trail signs, water bars to prevent erosion, and a new full-color guide and map. The Groundwork Lawrence Green Team, a youth environmental service learning program, spent eight weeks this past summer landscaping the parking lot, picking up trash, and pruning branches that blocked the trails. With the assistance of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Green Team identified the native bird species in the park, after which they named four of the trails.



Photo courtesy Doug Evans

The project team also included Cosmos Associates Landscape Architects, Precision Group, and David Curran, graphic designer. The project was supported by a \$50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Recreation Trails Fund. Groundwork Lawrence is a member of the Groundwork USA Initiative of the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, which builds the capacity of urban communities to improve their environment for conservation, recreation and economic development. For more information, please contact Douglas Evans, Manager of the Groundwork USA Initiative for NPS, at [douglas\\_evans@nps.gov](mailto:douglas_evans@nps.gov) or 617- 223- 5124.

### **Surplus Army Parcel Becomes Multi- purpose Community Park**

Memphis obtains abandoned golf course



Photo courtesy Bill Huie

Memphis, TN (November 2, 2005) - The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program transferred 46.74 acres, at no cost, from the Memphis Defense Distribution Depot to the City of Memphis for public park and recreation use. Valued at just over \$1.14 million, acquisition of this property will help the City's Division of Park Services provide a multi-purpose community park including a golf course, playground, walking paths, lake, and much-needed open space. The transfer was negotiated by the NPS.

For more information, please contact Bill Huie, FLP Program Manager, Atlanta, GA at [bill\\_huie@nps.gov](mailto:bill_huie@nps.gov) or 404- 562- 3175.

## **Partners Team Up to Complete 10 Miles of the River Mountains Loop Trail**

### **New links build community connections to Lake Mead**

Henderson, NV (October 22, 2005) - The River Mountains Loop Trail Partnership, City of Henderson, Nevada Parks and Recreation Department, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area celebrated their largest National Trails Day event ever, with 450 outdoor enthusiasts marking completion of ten miles of the River Mountains Loop Trail. The event included a vendor expo featuring over 20 organizations, guided hikes, guided mountain and road bike rides, and an equestrian trail ride.

Nevada's resource management agencies, private land owners, and citizens combined efforts to plan and build the trail, which is the first such collaboration in Southern Nevada. The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program launched the partnership and planning effort by assisting the team in developing a strategic trail plan. When complete, the River Mountains Loop Trail will stretch nearly 35 miles and provide Nevada residents with scenic views, plentiful wildlife habitat, and the vast beauty of the Mojave while expanding recreational and alternative transportation opportunities for the region's growing population. For more information, please contact Barbara Rice, RTCA, at [barbara\\_rice@nps.gov](mailto:barbara_rice@nps.gov) or 510-817-1449.

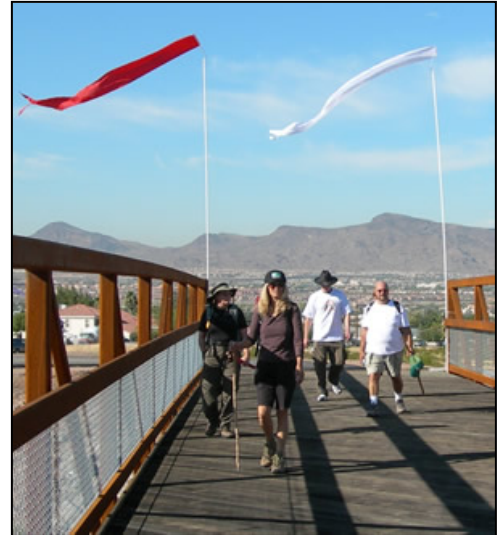


Photo by Trish Gumina

## **NPS Partners Awarded for Improving the Health of Minnesotans**

Walking routes and \$200,000 acquisition funding just two of many accomplishments

St. Paul, MN (November 21, 2005)— Be Active Minnesota and The Minnesota Council on Physical Activity and Sports have given Awards of Excellence to two NPS partners: the Chester Woods Trails Group and the Isanti County Active Living Steering Committee. These awards are given to individuals, programs, and community groups that help improve the health of Minnesotans through physical activity.

The Chester Woods group has been working for 11 years to promote a more active lifestyle for the citizens of Eyota and eastern Rochester by establishing a trail linking Rochester and Chester Woods Regional Park to nearby cities. The group was awarded \$200,000 in State funding and is now acquiring the trail corridor, as well as working with a new coalition to establish a fifty-mile regional trail. RTCA staff are working with the Chester Woods, Great River Ridge, and Whitewater trail groups to establish, plan, and promote the collaborative regional trail effort.



Photo by Chester Woods Trail Group

The Isanti County committee was one of 25 communities nationwide to receive a prestigious Robert Woods Johnson Foundation Active Living By Design grant. Successes include sidewalk development, walkable community workshops, walking route maps, walking promotion events, and a countywide bike tour. RTCA staff have provided technical assistance to help establish the organization and are assisting with future plans to develop a trail connecting the County's major cities. For more information, please contact Holly Larson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at [holly\\_larson@nps.gov](mailto:holly_larson@nps.gov) or 651- 290- 3003.



Photo by Isanti County Active Living

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project. This e-mail newsletter may be copied or redirected; our staff would be pleased to assist your editor in adapting any of these stories for your publication. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please call (202) 354-6900 or e-mail [sally\\_grate@nps.gov](mailto:sally_grate@nps.gov)